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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 582  
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. Bill Scott Portis of Huntingdon  
on the occasion of his retirement from his  
private practice of medicine.

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the members of this General Assembly should  
pause to honor those Tennesseans who are celebrating milestones in their venerable lives; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bill Scott Portis, M.D., is one such individual who is richly deserving of  
the special commendation of this body; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Portis has exhibited uncommon integrity, diligence, and compassion as  
a physician in service to his patients throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Portis has just retired from his private medical practice, after completing  
25 years of distinguished service in family medicine; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Portis was blessed to be the son of the Honorable Billy and Dorothy Sue  
Portis, whose parental love and care blessed him enormously; and,

WHEREAS, in 1959, he graduated from Huntingdon High School, distinguishing himself  
as the star quarterback for the Mustangs; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Bill Scott Portis attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville on a football scholarship, and also played college baseball, developing athletic skills still witnessed today in this marathoner's running and biking; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Portis earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree in finance and accounting, with the intention of becoming a stockbroker; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Portis, to the good fortune and rich blessing of his appreciative patients, changed his original career path and entered the medical field at the urging of his fine friend and advisor, Dr. Jerry Atkins; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, he matriculated at UT's Center for Health Sciences medical school in Memphis, graduating in 1974; and

WHEREAS, truly a man of many talents, Dr. Bill Scott Portis will now render astute service to the sick as part of a 35-member medical missionary team, which left for Kenya, East Africa on January 12th, 2000; the team will travel to villages and impoverished areas, treating illnesses such as AIDS, malaria, meningitis, pneumonia, and tuberculosis; and

WHEREAS, after returning from Africa, Dr. Portis will continue his meritorious service as a physician and Medical Director of the Baptist Hospital Emergency Room, a position in which he has served since 1984; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Portis worked closely with the Baptist Hospital system and the Carroll County Commission to form a partnership and provide health care for area residents after the Carroll County Hospital was closed; and

WHEREAS, his many honors and achievements aside, Dr. Portis is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from three children: Scott McClain Portis of Nashville, Caroline Portis of Nashville, and Molly Portis of Knoxville; his two grandchildren, 3-year-old Leah Cannon Portis, and Scott McClain Portis, Jr., who is 3 months old; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bill Scott Portis is blessed to be the brother of Betty Ann Portis Tanner of Union City; Tom Portis of Memphis; and Leigh Jones of Brentwood; and

WHEREAS, he and his loving wife, Kathy, his partner in life and ministry, share a historic Civil War-era home, which they restored in 1988, where they provide warmth and welcome to all blessed to enter therein; and

WHEREAS, seldom does a man of Dr. Portis' eminent stature walk among us, and it is fitting that he should be recognized for his life of purpose and commitment to the good health of all God's children; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Portis has endured and kindly assisted in the political undertakings of family and friends, including his late father, Carroll County Commissioner Billy Portis, his brother-in-law Congressman John Tanner, and even the likes of Roy Herron and Mark Maddox, and Dr. Porter has even endured the marriage of his son to Carol Len, the niece of U.S. Senator Bill Frist; thus it seems fitting that this General Assembly also recognize and thank him for 'putting up with' such as these; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we extend to Dr. Bill Scott Portis our heartfelt thanks for his august service to the people of Tennessee as an accomplished and dedicated family practitioner, and wish him well in his future ministry in medicine and beyond, and in all his and Kathy's and his endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.